

MAY 10 2007

Attorney's Docket No.: 34874-283 / 2003P00890 US

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the current application are respectfully requested.

Amendments have been made to obviate the current objections. No new matter has been added.

35 USC § 103

Claims 1 - 36 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art ("APAA" - namely the "Background" section of the specification) and further in view of Manno et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21 were rejected based on a single argument. However, it is respectfully submitted that certain of such claims recite features different than those discussed in the office action, and as a result, require separate comments.

Claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended to clarify that the auxiliary platform connects to the principal computing platform after the availability query has been created (for support, see, inter alia, specification par. 26). Such an arrangement overcomes problems associated with conventional systems, such as those described in the background of the specification, by obviating the need for online checks (i.e., availability checks when the computing device is connected to a computer network to a back-end system, etc.). There is no suggestion in the background of the application that it was known to initiate queries while the PDA or laptop computer of an individual in a location such as Cairo while such a computing device was "offline". In fact, the background states "... a sales person may place a laptop computer **online** at a customer's site and perform an ATP check by having the laptop query the remotely located back office system. Such systems tether the sales person to his laptop and require the laptop to be **online**." As a result, the skilled artisan would not have been motivated to combine Manno,

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which relates to continually connected remote point of sale system, with the background of the specification. Moreover, even if such references were combined, they fail to teach the recited subject matter.

Accordingly, claims 1, 5, and 9 should be allowable.

Claim 13, 17, and 21 describe an arrangement in which a replica database is resident on the auxiliary computing platform and that the replica database is synchronized with a back-end system. Queries generated at the auxiliary computing platform are run against this local replica database as opposed to the back-end system. The background of the specification does not suggest that an availability check can be run locally or that mobile computing devices can include replicated and synchronized databases. Moreover, Manno describes an arrangement in which the remote point of sale systems are continually connected. As a result, the skilled artisan would not have been motivated to combine these two references, nor would the skilled artisan have resulted in the claimed subject matter if such references were for some reason combined.

Accordingly, claims 13, 17, 21, and their respective dependent claims should be allowable.

Concluding Comments

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated

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in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

On the basis of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant is concurrently filing herewith a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-283.

Respectfully submitted,


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